Patent Claims: 2000/B001 - Ma 1224

1. A method for measuring the aggregation of blood platelets, where a reaction mixture is mixed in a first reaction phase, and is mixed less vigorously or not at all in a second reaction phase following the first, where the measurement is preferably carried out in the second reaction phase.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, where the mixing takes place by stirring, shaking, vibrating or ultrasound.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2 for determining the aggregation of physiologically active blood platelets.

4. The method as claimed in either of claims 1 or 2 for determining the aggregation of fixed blood platelets, in particular in the ristocetin cofactor test.

5. The method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, where whole blood, platelet-rich plasma, diluted platelet-rich plasma or purified platelets are employed as sample for the measurement.

6. The method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, where turbidimetric or nephelometric methods are employed for measuring the aggregate formation.

7. The method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, where electromagnetic methods are employed for measuring the aggregate formation.

8. The method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7, where the mixing time necessary for inducing the aggregation reaction is determined.

9. The method as claimed in claim 8 for determining the sensitivity of blood platelets to platelet activators such as, for example, ristocetin, collagen, ADP, epinephrine or arachidonic acid.

10. A method for determining the stability of platelet aggregates, where the aggregation in a method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7 is compared with an analogous measurement with continuous stirring.

11. The method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 10, where an incubation phase without mixing is inserted before the mixing phase.

12. The method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 11, where an initial measurement is determined before the mixing phase.

13. The method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 12, where the extent of the aggregation is determined by counting the remaining unaggregated platelets.

14. The method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 13, where the aggregation of blood platelets and particles is measured.

15. The method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 14, where in place of blood platelets there is use of other cells, membrane vesicles or artificial particles.

16. The method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 15, where the mixing is not completely stopped but the mixing is adjusted to a lower intensity.

17. The method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 16, where there is a sequence of a plurality of mixed and unmixed phases.